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8/17/99U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT

## I. HEADING

Date: August 17, 1999

Subject: R &amp; R Sales, South Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois

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## POLREP # 2

## II. BACKGROUND

Site No: B5C4	Delivery Order No: 0024
CERCLIS No: ILSFN0507804	ERNS No:
Response Authority: CERCLA	NPL Status: Non-NPL
State Notification: IEPA, IAG	Start Date: 8/2/99
Demobilization Date: 8/12/99	Completion Date: N/A
Status of Action Memorandum: Signed 7/9/99	

## III. SITE DESCRIPTION

A. Incident Category:

R &amp; R Sales is an abandoned electroplating facility

B. Site Location:

## 1. Site description:

The R & R Sales site is an inactive electroplating facility located at 3211 Holeman Avenue, South Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois (latitude 41°28'15" N, longitude 89°37'10" W). The site is located in a mixed industrial and residential area. The site is bordered on the west by Holeman Avenue, to the north by an auto body shop, to the south by an architectural molding manufacturer, and to the east by a residence. A steel facility is located west of the site across Holeman Avenue. The site consists of a 7,000 square-foot building and a fenced yard.

## 2. Description of threat:

The R & R Sales site is an inactive electroplating facility which performed electroless nickel and chromium processes. The business went bankrupt in the early 1990s. When the facility was abandoned, approximately 400 gallons of chromic acid were left inside the building and approximately 2,500 gallons of used electrolysis nickel were left outside the building in the fenced yard area. Minor releases were observed inside the facility as drums and containers were left open and spilled due to vandalism. Evidence of leakage to the soil outside the building from deteriorating drums has been observed. Due to the existence of

numerous hazardous substances, and that releases are ongoing, the actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances from the R & R Sales site present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health and welfare, or the environment.

C. **Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results**

On May 13, 1999, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) representatives conducted a site assessment. Approximately 133 drums/containers were observed outside in the rear yard. Several of the metal drums appeared deteriorated; the poly drums appeared to be in good condition. Two of the 5-gallon containers had no lids and appeared to be chromic acid. Approximately 30 drums and 60 small containers were located inside the building. Most of the drums/containers appeared to be in good condition. Four samples were collected from drums that tested acidic with pH paper. All four samples had a pH of less than 1 standard unit (SU), designating them as hazardous waste. Total chromium results ranged from 64,500 to 161,000 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), or 6% to 16%. Total nickel results ranged from 23 to 301 mg/kg.

IV. **RESPONSE INFORMATION**

A. **Situation**

1. **Current situation:**

Removal activities at the R & R Sales site began on August 2, 1999. Removal activities are being conducted by U.S. EPA through the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contract under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Activities will include staging of the drums and container; collecting samples from the drums and soil; perform HAZCAT of the samples; overpacking drums and containers as necessary; and disposal of drums, containers, and contaminated soils.

2. **Removal activities to date:**

The following activities were completed from 8/9/99 thru 8/12/99:

Hazard characterization was completed on all containers.

Compatibility testing was completed to generate site waste streams for disposal profiling.

Overpacking of containers which were in poor condition.

Empty containers were crushed or cut for future disposal.

A one-gallon bottle of concentrated sulfuric acid was neutralized on-site.

The back lot where containers were stored was divided into ten grids, soil samples were collected to determine the levels of chrome and nickel contamination in this area.

The site was prepared for a temporary shutdown pending waste stream analytical results, and approvals to various disposal sites.

B. **Planned Removal Actions**

Develop and implement a site-specific work plan including a proposed time line. Develop and implement a site-specific health and safety plan. Secure, stage, sample, and characterize all site wastes in drums, tanks,

vals, pits, sumps, piping, and other containers. Develop and implement an air monitoring and sampling program. Decontaminate or dispose of all scrap metal and RCRA-empty drums and containers produced during the removal action. Excavate contaminated soil and debris. Bulk and consolidate wastes in preparation for off-site disposal. Decontaminate affected building surfaces and perform soil sampling. Remove all hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants to an approved facility.

C. Next Steps

Prepare waste streams for off-site disposal.

Excavate contaminated soil as necessary and arrange disposal, backfill and grade area.

Decontaminate building surfaces as needed.

Finalize disposal of all site waste streams.

D. Key Issues

None.

V. COSTS

Extramural Costs:

Total Cleanup Contractor (e.g, ERRS) Costs	\$40,000
START	\$1,800
CLP	\$NA
REAC	\$NA
<b>TOTAL, EXTRAMURAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$41,800</b>

Intramural Costs:

Direct Costs (Region, HQ, ERT)	\$2,760
Intramural Indirect Costs	\$5,730
<b>TOTAL, INTRAMURAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$8,490</b>

**TOTAL SITE COST** \$50,290

Project Ceiling	\$247,660
Project Funds Remaining (percentage)	80%

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor. Other financial data, which the OSC must rely upon, may not be entirely up to date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

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VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

<u>Wastestream</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Containment</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Disposal</u>
Debris	solids	30yds	NA	NA	Skyline Disposal